surgency-prone States was finalised by Government;

(b) if so, the salient features of the policy, amount pending and amount reimbursed, so far, under the policy State-wise; and

(c) the diplomatic efforts made for discouraging support to terrorist groups by some neighbouring countries and response received, so far?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The salient features of the policy for reimbursement of security-related expenditure in respect of North-Eastern States are as follows.

A State to be eligible for reimbursement of expenditure needs to fulfil the following criteria:—

(i) Existence of one or more organisations in the State, declared as unlawful under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

(ii) Deployment of para-military forces in the State for counter-insurgency operations.

(iii) Declaration of part or whole of the State as disturbed area under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958.

The items of expenditure that will be considered for reimbursement are the following:—

(i) Expenditure incurred on items like purchase of new vehicles, bullet proofing of vehicles, purchase of weapons, communication equipment, bullet proof jackets and other protective gear, etc.

(ii) Additional expenditure in connection with capital works on jails and detention centres.

(iii) Expenditure on special training provided to State Police and Prison administration personnel.

(iv) Expenditure incurred on raising India Reserve Battalions.

(v) Expenditure incurred by the State Government in making necessary provision for Central Para Military Forces/Army deployment.

(vi) Ex-gratia grants and gratuitous relief to the victims of extremist violence.

(vii) Expenditure incurred on transporting arrested militants to jails outside the State or those arrested from outside the State and brought to the State by special flights, etc.

As per preliminary scrutiny and subject to audit, the following amounts are reimbursable:—

State	Approximate amount (for the period from 1.4.1995 to 31.3.1998) (Rs. in crores)
Assam	79.00
Manipur	36.00
Nagaland	22.00
Tripura	28.00

No amount has been reimbursed so far.

(c) Reports indicate that there are camps in some of our neighbouring countries, which are being used by North-East insurgent groups for safe havens, sanctuary and training purposes. The matter has been taken up with these countries and they have assured that they will not allow any one to use their territory for activities prejudicial to the interests of India.

Import of arms and armaments

*52. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the aggregate value of arms and armaments imported in the country in each of the years since 1991-92;

(b) whether there is any basis of truth in the suggestion that we are, after Saudi Arabia, the largest importer of arms and armaments; and

(c) whether such heavy imports of arms and weaponry are in consonance with the image of a country where close to 30 per cent of the population are under-nourished and nearly 50 per cent continue to be functionally illiterate?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The average outgo of funds including elements such as debt repayments, stage payments against contracts spanning several years, off-the-shelf purchases, technology transfer commitments and advance payments under contractual obligations are estimated to be approximately Rs. 5400 crores annually from financial years 1991-92 to 1997-98.

(b) According to available information, this does not appear to be the case;

(c) India's defence expenditure, including defence imports, is one of the lowest in the region as per internationally accepted standards, such as per capita expenditure and defence expenditure to GDP ratio. This is despite India's considerable security requirements given its long coastline, extensive land borders and EEZ.

Import of Coal

*53. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal worth Rs. 4100 crores was imported last year when stocks of coal worth Rs. 3000 crores were lying at the pitheads in our country; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) During the year 1997-98, coal of value of Rs. 4,422 crores was imported in to the country. As on 31.3.98, the value of saleable stock with the coal companies (CIL and SCCL) was Rs. 1,397.25 crores.

(b) Bulk of imported coal is coking coal of a quality in specification which is not produced in the country and is required by the Steel Sector. There has been import of Non-Coking coal also on the ground that imported coal is cheaper in certain locations compared to domestic coal.

Petrol pumps on National Highways in Bihar

*54. SHRI JAGDAMBI MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps functioning on all the National Highways in Bihar;

(b) the criteria for opening petrol pumps on the National Highways in the country;

(c) whether Government have assessed the feasibility of opening more petrol pumps on National Highways in the state of Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY): (a) There are 339 retail fuel pumps on all the National Highways in Bihar.

(b) The following volume distance norms are adopted by the Oil Industry for opening retails outlets on National Highways:

(i) The combined thruput per retail outlet within 15 KM (on either side) of the proposed retail outlet should exceed 80 Kilo Litres (KL) per month.

(ii) The minimum expected sale during the second year of operation should be:

(a) In the case of—Lone HSD	50 KL per month.
(b) In the case of—Combined MS/ HSD	MS-5 KL per month HSD-50 KL per month.